

- Spermestes punctata* Heugl.—Bibundi.  
 „ *poensis* (Fras.).—Buea.  
*Nigrita brunneus* Reichw.—Victoria, Buea.  
 „ *fusconota* Fras.—Buea.  
 „ *luteifrons* Verr.—Victoria, Buea.  
 „ *canicapilla* (Strickl.).—Victoria, Bibundi, Buea.  
*Cryptospiza reichenowi* (Hartl.).—Victoria, Buea.  
 \* *Nesocharis shelleyi* Alexander.—Cameroon Mt.  
 \* *Estrilda nonnula* Hartl.—Bibundi, Buea, Cameroon Mt.  
*Vidua serena* (Linn.).—Bibundi.

## ORIOOLIDÆ.

- Oriolus latior* Sharpe.—Victoria, Cameroon Mt.  
 \* „ *nigripennis* Verr.—Buea, Mann's Spring.

## DICRURIDÆ.

- \* *Dicrurus coracinus* Verr.—Victoria, Cameroon Mt.  
 „ *atripennis* Swains.—Victoria.

## STURNIDÆ.

- Lamprocolius purpureiceps* Verr.—Victoria, Cameroon Mt.  
 „ *splendidus* (Vieill.).—Victoria.  
*Onychognathus hartlaubi* (Gray).—Victoria.  
 \* „ *prussi* Reichw.—Buea, Mann's Spring, Cameroon Mt.  
*Pœoptera lugubris* Bonap.—Victoria.

## CORVIDÆ.

- Corvus scapulatus* Daud.—Victoria.  
*Picathartes oreas* Reichw.—Victoria.

XXV.—*Notes on some Waders.* By ERNST HARTERT,  
 M.B.O.U., and ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

(Text-figure 7.)

i. *On the genera CHARADRIUS, ÆGIALITIS,  
 and EUDROMIAS.*

WE cannot find any satisfactory characters by which to separate the genera *Charadrius*, *Ægialitis*, and *Eudromias*. In the new B. O. U. List of British Birds all three have been kept separate, in the Hand-list of British Birds all were united. Blanford (B. India, iv. pp. 236, 237) separated *Ægialitis* from *Charadrius*, but united *Eudromias* with the

latter! He says: "It appears best to class together the Sand-Plovers, Dotterels, and Ringed Plovers," and admits that: "Structurally there is no difference between the present genus (i. e. *Ægialitis*) and *Charadrius*. The only distinction, except in size, is in plumage," by which he means coloration. We do not see how size can decide the question, as the Dotterel is just about halfway in size between the Golden and Ringed Plovers, and we cannot admit the different coloration as of taxonomic value, least of all if the Dotterel is united with the Ringed Plovers!

## ii. On *CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS*.

In the Hand-list of British Birds, p. 167, the distribution of *C. alexandrinus alexandrinus*, during the breeding-season, has been given as "Europe from south Sweden to Mediterranean and north Africa, Madeira, Canary, Cape Verde Islands and Azores, apparently to east Siberia and Corea," and it has been said that it is replaced by allied forms in China, America, and "apparently also Ceylon."

In the B. O. U. List (p. 245) apparently only one form is recognised, as the distribution covers the whole area, including China and Ceylon, though it is added: "Various races have been recognised."

We find the view of the Hand-list correct, and Seebohm in his 'Geogr. Distr. of the Charadriidæ' has first correctly separated the races, which are as follows:—

### 1. *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus* L.

*Charadrius alexandrinus* Linnæus, Syst. Nat. ed. x. i. p. 150 (1758—Egypt).

*Charadrius cantianus* Latham, Ind. Orn. Suppl. p. lxvi (1801—Kent).

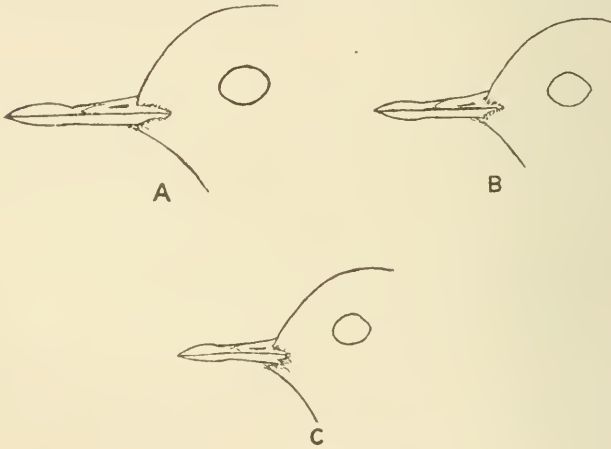
For further synonyms see Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. pp. 275–276.

Wing in both sexes about 106–115 and not rarely even 118 and (once) 119 mm. Bill generally about 14–15 mm., hardly ever longer.

Breeds from the southern coasts of England, south Sweden,

Denmark and Rügen, to the Mediterranean, Canary Islands, Madeira, Cape Verde Islands and Azores. in North Africa as far as the salt-swamps of the northern Sahara (Bledet-Ahmar, south of Touggourt), absent from north Russia, but throughout central Asia to Korea.—On migration to tropical Africa and Cape Colony, in India, as far as Ceylon, Japan, southern China and Formosa, the Natunas islands, the Malay Peninsula, and Borneo.

Text-figure 7.

A. *Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus*.B. *C. a. alexandrinus*.C. *C. a. seebohmi*.

## 2. *Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus* Swinhoe.

*Ægialites dealbatus* Swinhoe, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1870, p. 138 ("south coast of China, including Formosa and Hainan").

Differs from *C. a. alexandrinus* in its considerably stouter and longer bill. According to Swinhoe and Seebohm the legs are of a pale flesh-colour, but the labels written by Alan Owston's Japanese collectors do not bear this out, as they describe the legs and feet as blackish slate and mouse-grey, *i. e.*, the same as in the European form. Robert Hall says: "Pale bluish slate, front of tarsus pale fleshy cream-colour."

Wing about 109–115, exceptionally as long as 123 mm. Bill generally 16–17·5 mm.

This form is resident in south China, Hainan, Formosa, the Riukiu (Loo-Choo) Islands, and Japan, at least as far north as Yokohama, where in winter *C. a. alexandrinus* occurs as well. In the British Museum is a specimen from Amherst in Burma; also a female from Zaidam in central Asia belongs to this race.

Sharpe (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 279) refused to recognise this form, because some Chinese birds had as dark legs as European ones, but he overlooked the one distinguishing character, i. e., the huge bill, and apparently also the fact that *C. a. alexandrinus* migrates in winter into the area of *C. a. dealbatus*.

### 3. *Charadrius alexandrinus seebohmi*, nom. nov.

*Charadrius cantianus minutus* (nec *Charadrius minutus* Pallas, 1827!) Seebohm, Geogr. Distrib. Charadriidæ, p. 169 (1887—"Southern shores of the Red Sea, and island of Ceylon").

Considerably smaller than *C. a. alexandrinus* and *C. a. dealbatus*. Wing only 101–105, bill 12–13·5 mm. Unfortunately Seebohm's name is antedated by Pallas' *Charadrius minutus*, and we therefore propose a new name for the smallest race of the Kentish Plover, the type-specimen being an adult male in the Tring Museum from Aripo in north Ceylon, collected March 4, 1869, by E. Holdsworth.

The distribution of this race is not yet clear to us. It is resident in Ceylon, where it nests. Besides Ceylonese birds, some from Massaua (Red Sea) and Somaliland in the British Museum undoubtedly belong to the small race. A female from Sokotra, considered by Sharpe to belong to it (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 282), appears to be doubtful (wing 108), and we do not admit the west African specimen to be of this race.

### 4. *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* (Cass.).

*Ægialitis nivosus* Cassin, Baird's B. N. America, p. 696 (1858—California).

This form appears to agree in all essential characters with *C. alexandrinus*, except in the complete absence of the black loreal line. We agree therefore with Seebohm in treating it as a subspecies of the latter.

It inhabits the western United States of North America and migrates far south into South America.

### iii. What is "ÆGIALITIS HOMEYERI" Brehm?

In 1855, Vogelfang, p. 283, C. L. Brehm described *A. homeyeri*, saying that it had a long black beak, the size of *A. hiaticula*, the markings of *A. dubius*, but a greyish rust-yellow crown. The description has not been quoted in Cat. B. Brit. Mus xxiv. p. 259, but only the nomen nudum in the Naumannia, 1855, with a query. Examining the type of *A. homeyeri*, now in the Tring Museum, we find it is a *Charadrius hiaticula* with the head of a *C. alexandrinus* skilfully sown on. It is labelled as coming from the island of Rügen in the Baltic.

### iv. Ou CHARADRIUS COLLARIS.

In looking over the series of this species in the Tring Museum, we were struck by the different sizes of the various specimens, and it became clear that all the northern examples, *i. e.*, from Central America, Bonaire Island, Venezuela, British Guiana, and the Rio Madeira in Brazil, formed the small race, while those from southern Brazil to the Argentine Republic were considerably larger. Therefore the two races should be separated.

The larger race was first named by Vieillot in 1817 from Azara, who described it from Paraguay. *C. azaræ* Temm. is based on the same description and, therefore, a pure synonym. *C. larratus* appears to be also a synonym, being based on a specimen brought home by Delalande, who seems to have collected in south-east Brazil only; moreover, it is said to be of the size of the Little Ringed Plover, which applies certainly better to the big race than the small one. The first description of the small form is that by Cabanis, who in 1872 named it *Ægialitis gracilis*. The northern

form must therefore be called *Charadrius collaris gracilis*, and the synonymy of the two forms is as follows:—

1. *Charadrius collaris collaris* Vieill.

*Charadrius collaris* Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxvii. p. 136 (1817—Based on the “Mbatuitui collar negro” of Azara from Paraguay).

*Charadrius azarai* Temminck, Pl. Col. 184 (1823—based on the same bird, no. 392 of Azara from Paraguay).

*Charadrius larvatus* Lesson, Man. d'Orn. ii. p. 318 (1828—Brazil, Delalande coll.).

The wing measures 102 (once 101) to 105 mm.

This form inhabits southern South America from Argentina to Paraguay, also the province of Rio de Janeiro (Marambaya, Natterer coll. in the British Museum) and the Rio Pilcomayo, and extends to Cosnipata in Peru.

2. *Charadrius collaris gracilis* (Cab.).

*Egialitis gracilis* Cabanis, Journ. f. Orn. 1872, p. 158 (Tehuantepec).

Wing: 87·5–97 mm.

Inhabits Central America and northern South America, where the two forms appear to overlap, though further evidence is required whether this takes place in the breeding-season. There are, however, in the British Museum specimens from as far south as Iquitos and Chamicuro in Peru, and one from Cosnipata appears also to belong to it, others from Rio Grande do Sul in southern Brazil, and from Matto Grosso. In the whole of north Brazil only the small race occurs, as well as in Guiana.

V. *On CHARADRIUS DUBIUS.*

As in the case of *C. alexandrinus* there are several races, which cannot be overlooked, but they are closely allied and obscured in collections by the northern migrants, which often stray into the areas inhabited by their tropical allies. While the former ones are mighty wanderers, the latter are resident, as is evidently the case with *C. alexandrinus*, and indeed most tropical birds.

The small "tropical" race (not a good name, because *C. dubius dubius* is also tropical) is very close to *C. dubius curonicus* and not easy to recognise in skins, though apparently better in life, but the large-billed *C. d. dubius* is easily separable from *C. dubius curonicus*, though it seems that nobody has called attention to it.

### 1. *Charadrius dubius dubius* Scop.

*Petit Pluvier à collier de l'Isle de Luzon* Sonnerat, Voyage Nouv. Guin. p. 84, pl. 46 (1776—Luzon. The plate clearly shows the large bill).

*Charadrius (dubius)* Scopoli, Del. Faunæ et Floræ Insubr. ii. p. 93 (1786—*ex* Sonnerat, l. c., Luzon).

*Charadrius philippinus* Latham, Index Orn. ii. p. 745 (1790—*ex* Sonnerat, l. c., Philippine Is.).

Recognisable at a glance, when series are compared, by the long and strong bill. The culmen, from the end of the feathering, measures 14–15.6, the wing 109–116 and even 118 mm.

This race breeds and is resident on the Philippine Islands, in Hainan, Formosa, and apparently parts of south China, and it occurs sometimes on the Japanese Islands.

### 2. *Charadrius dubius curonicus* Gm.

*Ein Regenpfeifer* Beseke, Schriften d. Ges. naturf. Freunde Berlin, vii. p. 463 (1776—Kurland = "Courland"; the description is reproduced in Beseke, Vögel Kurlands, p. 66, 1792).

*Charadrius curonicus* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, p. 692 (1789—"Habitat in Curonia." *Ex* Beseke, l. c.).

*Charadrius minor* Wolf & Meyer, Vög. Deutschl. Heft xv. (1805—New name for *C. curonicus* and *fluviatilis*; *cf.* Meyer & Wolf, Taschenb. d. deutsch. Vogelk. p. 324).

*Charadrius fluviatilis* Bechstein, Gemeinn. Naturg. Deutschl. iv. p. 422 (1809—Also new name for *C. curonicus*).

*Charadrius minutus* Pallas, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. ii. p. 145 (1827—"In aquosis deserti Barabeusis rarius occurrit," *i. e.*, Barabinski Steppes, Tomsk Gouvernement, W. Siberia).



*Charadrius pusillus* Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, xiii. p. 187 (1821—Java. The type, a female, is evidently a migrant of the palæarctic race).

? *Charadrius hiaticuloides* Franklin, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1831, p. 125 (Ganges).

*Charadrius intermedius* Ménétriés, Cat. Rais. Caucasus, p. 53 (1832—Lenkoran).

*Charadrius zonatus* Swainson, B. W. Afr. ii. p. 235, pl. xxv. (1837—Senegal or Gambia).

? *Hiaticula simplex* Lichtenstein, Nomencl. Av. Mus. Berolin. p. 94 (1854—E. India! Nomen nudum!).

(For other synonyms see Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. pp. 266, 267.)

Quite like *A. d. dubius*, but the bill smaller, less powerful, about 11·8–14·5 mm. ; wing 111–119 and even 123 mm.

Nesting in the greater portion of Europe, in north-west Africa north of the Sahara, on the North Atlantic Islands, and through northern and central Asia apparently to east Siberia and Japan. Winters in Africa, India, and on the Sunda Islands.

### 3. *Charadrius dubius jerdoni* (Legge).

? *Charadrius hiaticuloides* Franklin, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1831, p. 125 (Ganges).

? *Hiaticula simplex* Lichtenstein, Nomencl. Av. Mus. Berolin. p. 94 (1854—E. India! Nomen nudum!).

*Ægialitis jerdoni* Legge, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1880, p. 39 (Ceylon and Central India).

This form, though recognised by Legge, Seebohm, Salvadori, Hume, and others, is not easy to separate from *C. d. curonicus*, but it cannot be ignored. It is generally smaller, the wings measuring from 103–112 and even 114 or 115 mm., the black frontal line is narrower and sometimes quite absent, and—according to most authors—the base of the lower mandible, which is only pale brown or yellow in *C. d. curonicus*, is invariably bright yellow in adult birds ; it is also said that the eyelid is more developed and of a bright yellow. The distribution is not easy to define, but it seems



that this form inhabits India and is also found in Borneo and New Guinea. Specimens with larger dimensions from India are apparently migrants from the north, but in view of the great individual variation in size of these Little Plovers, one cannot always be sure about single winter birds from tropical India.

vi. *On TRINGA OCHROPUS.*

It has recently been suggested that the eastern and western forms of the Green Sandpiper are separable, the latter being lighter and smaller. We cannot confirm this; neither can we see the slightest difference in colour, nor is the supposed eastern form larger; on the contrary, we find more large specimens among western birds—apart from a giant from the Amambara Creek, Niger, W. Africa—than among the eastern ones, but the majority show the same dimensions.

We must therefore regard *Tringa ochropus assami* Mathews (Austral. Av. Rec. i. p. 188, 1913, Assam, and B. Austr. iii. p. 203) as a synonym of *T. ochropus*.

XXVI.—*Notes on the Ornithology of the Matopo District, Southern Rhodesia.* Part II.\* By L. BERESFORD MOURITZ, M.B.O.U., M.S.A.O.U.

(Text-figure 8.)

118. ‡ *Riparia cincta*. Banded Sand-Martin.

An uncommon summer visitor, and very local in its distribution. I first met with this Sand-Martin in the district on November 30, 1910, when four or five were flitting about some old shafts and trenches between the Northern Star and Kimono Mines. In 1912 I saw one, flying in company with two Rufous-breasted Swallows, close to the Terminus Hotel, on January 21, and again met with it in this locality on March 10, whilst at the end of January I met with the species again on Lucydale farm. These

\* For Part I. see 'Ibis,' 1915. pp. 185-216.